

for lease or conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested persons may submit comments regarding the proposed conveyance or classification of the lands to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Field Office, 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO 81230.

CLASSIFICATION COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a sanitary landfill. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

APPLICATION COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a sanitary landfill.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Signed September 24, 1999.

Barry A. Tollefson,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-25524 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Acceptance of Plan of Operations; Mining Operations, CIMA Cinder Mine, Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County, California

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 9.17(a) of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9, Subpart A, that the National Park Service has received, and accepted as complete, from J. Lorene Caffee, the Cima Cinder Mine, a plan of operations on the Cinder No. 2 and Cinder No. 3 claims, in the Mojave National Preserve, located within San Bernardino County, California.

The plan of operations is available for public review and comment for a period

of 30 days from the publication date of this notice. The document can be viewed during normal business hours at the office of the Superintendent, Mojave National Reserve, 222 East Main Street, Suite 202, Barstow, California 92311. Individuals desiring to comment on the plan are notified that their names and addresses are generally available to the public.

Dated: September 13, 1999.

Mary G. Martin,

Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve.

[FR Doc. 99-25246 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Operations of the Navajo Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, New Mexico and Colorado and Announcement of Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the operations of the Navajo Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, New Mexico and Colorado and announcement of public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), announces its intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, on the Navajo Unit (Unit). The DEIS will describe the effects of operating the Unit to implement the flow recommendations provided by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Program). The purpose of the proposed action is to mimic the natural hydrograph of the San Juan River to create and maintain habitat and a healthy biological community in order to conserve populations of two endangered fishes, the razorback sucker and the Colorado pikeminnow (formerly Colorado squawfish), while maintaining the other authorized purposes of the Unit, Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP). Such conservation is consistent with the recovery goals established under the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Reclamation invites other federal agencies, states, Indian Tribes, local

governments, and the general public to submit written comments or suggestions concerning the scope of the issues to be addressed in the DEIS. The public is invited to participate in a series of scoping meetings that will be held in November in Colorado and New Mexico (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section). Those not desiring to submit comments or suggestions at this time, but who would like to receive a copy of the DEIS, should write to the addresses below. When the DEIS is complete, its availability will be announced in the **Federal Register**, local news media, and through direct contact with interested parties so that comments can be solicited.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for meeting dates and locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jone Wright, Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, Northern Division, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506, telephone: (970) 248-0636. FAX: (970) 248-0601. E-Mail: jwright@uc.usbr.gov or refer to Reclamation's web site at www.uc.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Unit was authorized by Congress in 1956 as one of four key features of the CRSP intended to develop the water resources of the Upper Colorado River Basin for the purposes of:

* * * regulating the flow of the Colorado River, storing water for beneficial consumptive use, making it possible for the States of the Upper Basin to utilize, consistently with the provisions of the Colorado River Compact, the apportionments made to and among them in the Colorado River Compact and the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, respectively, providing for the reclamation of arid and semiarid lands, for the control of floods, and for the generation of hydroelectric power, as an incident to the foregoing purposes. * * *

Other project purposes include a municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

Operations

After completion of the Unit in December 1963, the focus of the criteria for releasing water from the dam was primarily on meeting irrigation needs, providing flood control, maintaining stable flows, and providing a recreation pool in Navajo Reservoir. Over the last decade, however, the focus of the criteria and associated pattern for releasing water from the Unit has changed. The effects that Unit operations have had on endangered fishes and trout have resulted in various